THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) the projects approved by the Government and entrusted to National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) for upgradation are under various stages of implementation. Therefore, the cost of completion and the escalation, if any, shall be known only after the completion of the projects. The approved cost against each Phase *i.e.* Phase-I, II and IIIA is Rs. 30,300 crore (at 1999 prices), Rs. 34,339 crore (at 2002 prices) and 22,000 crore (at 2004 prices) respectively, exclusive of escalation. As against the approved cost, the actual expenditure including escalation and variations upto November, 2006 is Rs. 31,408 crore, Rs. 4,550.51 crore and Rs. 592.73 crore for NHDP Phase-I, II and IIIA respectively.

(c) The contracts awarded by NHAI have a clause relating to payment of escalation based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI).

(d) and (e) The contracts are regularly monitored at different levels including visits of senior officers at construction sites. All efforts are made to economize the construction cost.

Modernisation of Container Terminal

1765. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to improve and modernise the container terminal at Nhava Sheva;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are huge delays in delivery containers from Nhava Sheva;

(c) the reasons for the long delays at this port;

(d) whether Government have been unable to streamline operations; and

(e) the steps that would be taken to make Nhava Sheva a world-class facility?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) There are three container terminlas in operation in Jawaharlal Nehru Port, namely, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Container Terminal

(JNPCT), Nhava Sheva International Container Terminal (NSICT) and M/s Gateway Terminals India Pvt. Ltd. (GTI). JNPCT is owned and operated by the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT). Its development and modernisation is an ongoing process, keeping in view the demands of maritime trade. The other two terminals are controlled and operated on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis, in terms of the License Agreements signed between the JNPT and the BOT operators.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Under the National Maritime Development Programme, a total of 276 projects in the Major Ports have been identified to be taken up for implementation by 2011-12. These include projects for development of berths/terminals, deepening of channels, equipment modernisation and upgradation, imporved rail/road connectivity and other associated facilities. Out of these, a total of 32 projects involving an estimated investment of Rs. 7278 crores pertain to JNPT. These include deepending and widening of the port channel to receive large size vessels, acquisition of ship to shore and yard cranes for handling containers, development of a fourth container terminal and marine chemical terminal, extension of existing container berth towards north by 330 mtrs and upgrading of road/rail linkages between the port and its hinterland.

Collection of Toll Tax by Private Agencies

1766. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Toll Tax collected by Public and Private agencies all over the country, State-wise during financial year 2001-02 to 2004-05;

(b) whether his ministry is aware about protests from common people against the collection of Toll Tax; and

(c) whether there is any monitoring by Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA):